

**REPORT OF THE AUDIT OF THE  
LETCHER COUNTY  
SHERIFF'S SETTLEMENT - 2010 UNMINED COAL TAXES**

**For The Period  
August 16, 2010 Through July 15, 2011**



**ADAM H. EDELEN  
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS  
[www.auditor.ky.gov](http://www.auditor.ky.gov)**

**209 ST. CLAIR STREET  
FRANKFORT, KY 40601-1817  
TELEPHONE 502.564.5841  
FACSIMILE 502.564.2912**



## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **AUDIT EXAMINATION OF THE LETCHER COUNTY SHERIFF'S SETTLEMENT - 2010 UNMINED COAL TAXES**

**For The Period  
August 16, 2010 Through July 15, 2011**

The Auditor of Public Accounts has completed the audit of the Sheriff's Settlement - 2010 Unmined Coal Taxes for the Letcher County Sheriff for the period August 16, 2010 through July 15, 2011. We have issued an unqualified opinion on the financial statement taken as a whole. Based upon the audit work performed, the financial statement is presented fairly in all material respects.

#### **Financial Condition:**

The Sheriff collected taxes of \$1,527,954 for the districts for 2010 Unmined Coal taxes, retaining commissions of \$59,945 to operate the Sheriff's office. The Sheriff distributed taxes of \$1,448,262 to the districts for 2010 Unmined Coal taxes. Taxes of \$20,034 are due to the districts from the Sheriff.

#### **Report Comments:**

- 2010-01 The Sheriff Should Make Daily Deposits
- 2010-02 The Sheriff Should Strengthen Internal Controls Over Taxes Collected
- 2010-03 The Sheriff's Office Lacks Adequate Segregation Of Duties

#### **Deposits:**

The Sheriff's deposits were insured and collateralized by bank securities.



## CONTENTS

PAGE

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT .....	1
SHERIFF'S SETTLEMENT - 2010 UNMINED COAL TAXES.....	3
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT .....	5
REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS.....	9
COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS .....	13





**ADAM H. EDELEN**  
**AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS**

To the People of Kentucky  
Honorable Steven L. Beshear, Governor  
Lori H. Flanery, Secretary  
Finance and Administration Cabinet  
Honorable Jim Ward, Letcher County Judge/Executive  
Honorable Danny Webb, Letcher County Sheriff  
Members of the Letcher County Fiscal Court

Independent Auditor's Report

We have audited the Letcher County Sheriff's Settlement - 2010 Unmined Coal Taxes for the period August 16, 2010 through July 15, 2011. This tax settlement is the responsibility of the Letcher County Sheriff. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on this financial statement based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and the Audit Guide for Sheriff's Tax Settlements issued by the Auditor of Public Accounts, Commonwealth of Kentucky. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statement is free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statement. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As described in Note 1, the Sheriff's office prepares the financial statement in accordance with the modified cash basis, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statement referred to above presents fairly, in all material respects, the Letcher County Sheriff's taxes charged, credited, and paid for the period August 16, 2010 through July 15, 2011, in conformity with the modified cash basis of accounting.

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, we have also issued our report dated December 15, 2011 on our consideration of the Sheriff's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements, and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with Government Auditing Standards and should be considered in assessing the results of our audit.



To the People of Kentucky  
Honorable Steven L. Beshear, Governor  
Lori H. Flanery, Secretary  
Finance and Administration Cabinet  
Honorable Jim Ward, Letcher County Judge/Executive  
Honorable Danny Webb, Letcher County Sheriff  
Members of the Letcher County Fiscal Court

Based on the results of our audit, we present the accompanying comments and recommendations, included herein, which discusses the following report comments:

- 2010-01 The Sheriff Should Make Daily Deposits
- 2010-02 The Sheriff Should Strengthen Internal Controls Over Taxes Collected
- 2010-03 The Sheriff's Office Lacks Adequate Segregation Of Duties

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adam H. Edelen', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Adam H. Edelen  
Auditor of Public Accounts

December 15, 2011



LETCHER COUNTY  
DANNY WEBB, SHERIFF  
SHERIFF'S SETTLEMENT - 2010 UNMINED COAL TAXES

For The Period August 16, 2010 Through July 15, 2011

<u>Charges</u>	<u>County Taxes</u>	<u>Special Taxing Districts</u>	<u>School Taxes</u>	<u>State Taxes</u>
Unmined Coal - 2010 Taxes	\$ 187,166	\$ 365,824	\$ 822,957	\$ 207,584
Penalties	116	227	496	129
Gross Chargeable to Sheriff	187,282	366,051	823,453	207,713
<u>Credits</u>				
Discounts	3,619	7,072	15,951	4,014
Delinquents:				
Unmined Coal - 2010 Taxes	3,109	6,077	13,255	3,448
Total Credits	6,728	13,149	29,206	7,462
Taxes Collected	180,554	352,902	794,247	200,251
Less: Commissions *	7,674	14,998	28,762	8,511
Taxes Due	172,880	337,904	765,485	191,740
Taxes Paid	170,186	332,638	753,534	191,904
10% Penalty				287
Due Districts				
as of Completion of Audit	\$ 2,694	\$ 5,266	\$ 11,951	\$ 123
		**	***	

\*, \*\*, and \*\*\* See Next Page.

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement.

LETCHER COUNTY  
DANNY WEBB, SHERIFF  
SHERIFF'S SETTLEMENT - 2010 UNMINED COAL TAXES  
For The Period August 16, 2010 Through July 15, 2011  
(Continued)

\* Commissions:

4.25% on	\$	733,707
4% on	\$	493,516
3% on	\$	300,731

\*\* Special Taxing Districts:

Library District	\$	1,837
Health District		1,960
Extension District		1,200
Soil Conservation District		<u>269</u>

Due Districts	\$	<u><u>5,266</u></u>
---------------	----	---------------------

*** Letcher County School District	\$	<u>11,951</u>
------------------------------------	----	---------------

Due District	\$	<u><u>11,951</u></u>
--------------	----	----------------------

LETCHER COUNTY  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT

July 15, 2011

Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

A. Fund Accounting

The Sheriff's office tax collection duties are limited to acting as an agent for assessed property owners and taxing districts. A fund is used to account for the collection and distribution of taxes. A fund is a separate accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. Fund accounting is designed to demonstrate legal compliance and to aid financial management by segregating transactions related to certain government functions or activities.

B. Basis of Accounting

The financial statement has been prepared on a modified cash basis of accounting. Basis of accounting refers to when charges, credits, and taxes paid are reported in the settlement statement. It relates to the timing of measurements regardless of the measurement focus.

Charges are sources of revenue which are recognized in the tax period in which they become available and measurable. Credits are reductions of revenue which are recognized when there is proper authorization. Taxes paid are uses of revenue which are recognized when distributions are made to the taxing districts and others.

C. Cash and Investments

At the direction of the fiscal court, KRS 66.480 authorizes the Sheriff's office to invest in the following, including but not limited to, obligations of the United States and of its agencies and instrumentalities, obligations and contracts for future delivery or purchase of obligations backed by the full faith and credit of the United States, obligations of any corporation of the United States government, bonds or certificates of indebtedness of this state, and certificates of deposit issued by or other interest-bearing accounts of any bank or savings and loan institution which are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) or which are collateralized, to the extent uninsured, by any obligation permitted by KRS 41.240(4).

Note 2. Deposits

The Letcher County Sheriff maintained deposits of public funds with depository institutions insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) as required by KRS 66.480(1)(d). According to KRS 41.240(4), the depository institution should pledge or provide sufficient collateral which, together with FDIC insurance, equals or exceeds the amount of public funds on deposit at all times. In order to be valid against the FDIC in the event of failure or insolvency of the depository institution, this pledge or provision of collateral should be evidenced by an agreement between the Sheriff and the depository institution, signed by both parties, that is (a) in writing, (b) approved by the board of directors of the depository institution or its loan committee, which approval must be reflected in the minutes of the board or committee, and (c) an official record of the depository institution.

LETCHER COUNTY  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
July 15, 2011  
(Continued)

Note 2. Deposits (Continued)

Custodial Credit Risk - Deposits

Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of a depository institution failure, the Sheriff's deposits may not be returned. The Letcher County Sheriff does not have a deposit policy for custodial credit risk but rather follows the requirements of KRS 41.240(4). As of July 15, 2011, all deposits were covered by FDIC insurance or a properly executed collateral security agreement.

Note 3. Tax Collection Period

The Unmined Coal Tax assessments were levied as of January 1, 2010. Property taxes were billed to finance governmental services. Liens are effective when the tax bills become delinquent. The collection period for these assessments was January 24, 2011 through July 15, 2011.

REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND  
ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL  
STATEMENT PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS





**ADAM H. EDELEN**  
**AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS**

The Honorable Jim Ward, Letcher County Judge/Executive  
Honorable Danny Webb, Letcher County Sheriff  
Members of the Letcher County Fiscal Court

**Report On Internal Control Over Financial Reporting And On  
Compliance And Other Matters Based On An Audit Of The Financial  
Statement Performed In Accordance With Government Auditing Standards**

We have audited the Letcher County Sheriff's Settlement - 2010 Unmined Coal Taxes for the period August 16, 2010 through July 15, 2011, and have issued our report thereon dated December 15, 2011. The Sheriff prepares his financial statement in accordance with a basis of accounting other than generally accepted accounting principles. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

**Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

Management of the Letcher County Sheriff's office is responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting. In planning and performing our audit, we considered the Letcher County Sheriff's internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statement, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Sheriff's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Sheriff's internal control over financial reporting.

Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the preceding paragraph and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that might be significant deficiencies or material weaknesses and therefore, there can be no assurance that all deficiencies, significant deficiencies, or material weaknesses have been identified. However, as described in the accompanying comments and recommendations, we identified certain deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that we consider to be material weaknesses.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statement will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. We consider the deficiencies described in the accompanying comments and recommendations as items 2010-02 and 2010-03 to be material weaknesses.



Report On Internal Control Over Financial Reporting And On  
Compliance And Other Matters Based On An Audit Of The Financial  
Statement Performed In Accordance With Government Auditing Standards  
(Continued)


Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Letcher County Sheriff's Settlement - 2010 Unmined Coal Taxes for the period August 16, 2010 through July 15, 2011, is free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed an instance of noncompliance or other matters that is required to be reported under Government Auditing Standards and which is described in the accompanying comments and recommendations as item 2010-01.

The Letcher County Sheriff's responses to the findings identified in our audit are included in the accompanying comments and recommendations. We did not audit the Sheriff's responses and, accordingly, we express no opinion on them.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of management, the Letcher County Fiscal Court, and the Department for Local Government and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adam H. Edelen', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Adam H. Edelen  
Auditor of Public Accounts

December 15, 2011



## COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS



LETCHER COUNTY  
DANNY WEBB, SHERIFF  
COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

For The Period August 16, 2010 Through July 15, 2011

STATE LAWS AND REGULATIONS:

2010-01 The Sheriff Should Make Daily Deposits

The Sheriff did not always deposit tax receipts daily. During our test of receipts, we discovered that some tax receipts were accumulated and not deposited into an official bank account on a daily basis. The State Local Finance Officer, under the authority of KRS 68.210, has established minimum accounting requirements, which include depositing receipts intact on a daily basis and reconciling receipts to a daily check out sheet. We recommend the Sheriff deposit receipts on a daily as required by the State Local Finance Officer.

*Sheriff's Response: Will comply.*

INTERNAL CONTROL - MATERIAL WEAKNESSES:

2010-02 The Sheriff Should Strengthen Internal Controls Over Taxes Collected

Our audit revealed the Sheriff generated incorrect monthly reports for April 2011 for unmined coal taxes. The Sheriff did not close out deposits in April resulting in monthly reports generated that did not include these taxes collected. These errors in reporting tax collections resulted in the Sheriff owing districts \$20,035 for unmined coal taxes.

A breakdown of amount owed is as follows:

- Taxes due to the districts for unmined coal taxes include \$123 due to the State, \$2,695 due to the County, \$11,951 due to the Common School, \$1,837 due to the Library district, \$1,960 due to the Health district, \$1,200 due to the Extension district and \$269 due to the Soil district.
- The Sheriff incurred a 10% penalty of \$287 for unmined coal taxes due to the State as a result of errors in reporting tax collections.

Errors in reporting tax collections could have been prevented or detected if the Sheriff's office had prepared reconciliations of taxes collected to taxes paid. We recommend the Sheriff's office implement procedures to prevent or detect errors in tax collections.

*Sheriff's Response: A procedure will be put in place to keep this from happening in the future.*

LETCHER COUNTY  
DANNY WEBB, SHERIFF  
COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS  
For The Period August 16, 2010 Through July 15, 2011  
(Continued)

INTERNAL CONTROL - MATERIAL WEAKNESSES: (Continued)

2010-03 The Sheriff's Office Lacks Adequate Segregation Of Duties

During our review of internal control, we found the Sheriff's office has a lack of adequate segregation of duties. A significant deficiency occurs when someone has custody over assets and the responsibility of recording financial transactions. The bookkeeper collects, deposits, and records all receipts and prepares and records all checks. The bookkeeper also prepares all bank reconciliations. Good internal controls dictate that the same employee should not be handling, recording, and reconciling cash receipts. Furthermore, authorized check signers should be independent of receiving cash and preparing checks. A material weakness occurs when a significant deficiency, or combination of significant deficiencies, results in more than a remote likelihood that a material misstatement of the financial statement will not be prevented or detected by the entity's internal controls. The sheriff's office failed to prepare reconciliations of taxes collected to taxes paid. We noted errors in tax collections which could have been prevented or detected if the sheriff's office had prepared reconciliations of taxes collected to taxes paid.

If the Sheriff cannot segregate these duties, compensating controls such as the Sheriff recounting daily deposits, agreeing deposits to daily tax reports, and agreeing deposits to the receipts ledger should be implemented. The Sheriff should also review reconciliations of taxes collected to taxes paid. The Sheriff should document these reviews by initialing and dating the bank deposit, daily checkout sheet, receipts ledger, and reconciliations. The Sheriff could also periodically compare bank reconciliations to the balance in the checkbook and document this by initialing and dating the bank reconciliation and the balance in the checkbook. We recommend the Sheriff review office procedures to address this material weakness.

*Sheriff's Response: Some controls have been in place; however, we will implement other measures in the future.*

